

many children that I see, to do the right thing, to get a high school diploma, to be in the United States service, to get a GED that happened to have come and they're unstated.

This issue has been before the Congress for 11 years. In fact, there was an effort passed by the House that moved to the Senate, as was instructed, and the Senate refused to move forward on something called the DREAM Act. If you look at all of our cases and our caseload in our respective districts, particularly those of us in the Southwest, there are tons of cases that have come in that will bring tears to your eyes, children being deported away from their families or families being separated.

Let me disabuse you of the notion that this is not done under the law. There is a regulatory scheme under the Homeland Security Department that allows discretionary determination about deportation or whether or not someone should go into deportation. These are children. The President did the right thing by having an executive order that utilized the powers by the Secretary of Homeland Security under the Code of Federal Regulations to be able to use that discretion. It's the right thing to do.

Congress, it's not too late, my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to come forward and support the DREAM Act that has been introduced over and over again, that had bipartisan support. In fact, it's not too late to help the farmers, to help the high-tech industry, and pass comprehensive immigration reform. Who are we, other than Americans, who are humanitarians, who are empathetic, who love the values of this Nation and believe in opportunity?

I don't want people to be equating the loss of jobs with allowing a few children to be able to be saved from deportation, whether they come from South and Central America, they come from Ireland, they come from Italy, they come from the continent of Africa, the Caribbean. It is time to be the Nation that we know we are, which is lifting up people, giving opportunity. This is the greatest country in the world, and I look forward to corporations responding to at-risk boys, Mr. Speaker, and, as well, that we recognize the importance of helping children wherever they are.

THE WHITE HOUSE DECREE IS BAD FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the White House decreed partial amnesty for an estimated 3 million illegal aliens and mandated acceptance of illegal alien work permit applications. The White House decree is bad for America.

First, Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable for the White House to pit unem-

ployed Americans against illegal aliens in a competition for scarce jobs. In 2009, the Pew Hispanic Center found that 7.8 million struggling American families have already lost job opportunities to illegal aliens. America suffers an 8.2 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, Hispanic Americans suffer an 11 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, African Americans suffer a 14 percent unemployment rate. Even worse, American teenagers suffer a 25 percent unemployment rate. All are hammered by a White House decree that grants as many as 3 million illegal aliens work permits.

I understand heartfelt compassion for illegal aliens, but where is the compassion for millions of Americans who are unemployed and suffering from jobs lost to illegal aliens? Where is the compassion for American taxpayers who must pay higher taxes to support millions of extra unemployed?

Second, the White House decree grants amnesty to illegal aliens. Webster's defines "amnesty" as "the act of an authority, as a government, by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals." Further, "pardon" is defined as "a release from the legal penalties of an offense."

A penalty for breaking America's immigration laws is not lawfully getting a job. The White House releases illegal aliens from this penalty; hence, the White House grants amnesty. While the amnesty is admittedly partial, it is amnesty nonetheless.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the 1980s amnesty taught foreigners that America won't enforce its immigration laws. The result is over 10 million illegal aliens in America and an immigration mess that is destructive to America. A 2011 Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform study found that illegal aliens cost American taxpayers a net loss of \$99 billion a year. Illegal aliens overcrowd our schools and need costly English interpreters. In 2011, illegal aliens drove up America's K-12 education costs by \$49 billion per year. Illegal aliens overcrowd our emergency rooms, delay treatment for Americans, and drive up health care costs. Illegal aliens commit crimes, sometimes heinous, against American citizens and burden taxpayers with higher jail costs. In my home county, more Madison Countians have been killed by illegal aliens than have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

Mr. Speaker, amnesty did not solve America's illegal alien problem in the 1980s, nor will it today. Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Mr. Speaker, America must never again give blanket amnesty to illegal aliens.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, the White House decree is of questionable constitutionality. The Constitution states, and I quote article I, section 1, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States," and "the Congress shall have the power . . . to establish a uniform

rule of naturalization." The Constitution does not empower a President to make law. Hence, the only change to immigration law is as our Constitution demands, through Congress, not by imperial decree.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, when it was not an election year, President Obama agreed. On March 28, 2011, the President stated:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws. For me to simply, through executive order, ignore those congressional mandates would not conform with my appropriate role as President.

Last September the President again stated:

I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. The fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of the DREAM Act that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true.

Mr. Speaker, the President's own words speak volumes about the constitutionality of a White House decree that undermines America and the rule of law.

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EXTENSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this Congress' failure to extend renewable energy tax credits is already costing my home State, the Commonwealth of Virginia, jobs. As CBS News reported last month, Virginia is losing a wind turbine development to Spain because the United States doesn't have the right policies and tax incentives in place for renewable energy development. A spokesperson for the wind energy company Gamesa said that the uncertainty over the future of those tax credits for wind energy and the lack of Federal energy policy caused the company to invest in Spain instead of Virginia. The jobs to construct and maintain that turbine will be Spanish, not American.

The so-called Strategic Energy Production Act, coming to the House floor this week, actually perpetuates the problem by doubling down on oil and gas to the detriment of developing new and renewable energy sources in America. Even the Republican Governor of Virginia said that the lack of a national energy policy was one of the reasons we aren't moving forward with this project in America. President Obama has called on Congress to pass a "clean energy standard" that would guarantee a market for wind, solar, and other clean domestic energy sources. That legislation has not received any consideration in this House.